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To:	Name:	John B. Alexander, Ph.D.
	Company:	Edwards & Angell, LLP
	Fax Number:	1 617 439 4170
	Voice Phone:	1 617 439 4444
From:	Name:	Examiner David Romeo
	Official Fax Number:	(703) 872-9306
	Official After Final Fax Number:	(703) 872-9307
	Voice Phone:	703 305-4050

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Fax Notes:

Application Number: 09/716147
Attorney Docket Number: 47176-DIV2 (70342)

Mr. Alexander, Please consider the attached proposed examiner's amendment. Thank you, David Romeo.

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Art Unit: 1647

Proposed examiner's amendment:

In the claims:

Replace claim 17 with the following claim:

17. A screening method for a compound capable of changing the binding activity of a ligand
- 5 polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 73, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or a partial peptide of said ligand polypeptide, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, with a receptor protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21, or a salt thereof, or a partial peptide of said receptor protein, or a salt thereof, the method comprising making a comparison of said binding activity between:
- 10 (i) at least one case where said ligand polypeptide, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or a partial peptide of said ligand polypeptide, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof is contacted with said receptor protein or a salt thereof or a partial peptide of said receptor protein or a salt thereof, and
- (ii) at least one case where said ligand polypeptide, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof, or a
- 15 partial peptide of said ligand polypeptide, or its amide or ester, or a salt thereof together with a sample containing the compound to be tested is contacted with said receptor protein or a salt thereof or a partial peptide of said receptor protein or a salt thereof.

Cancel claims 12-16, 18-20.